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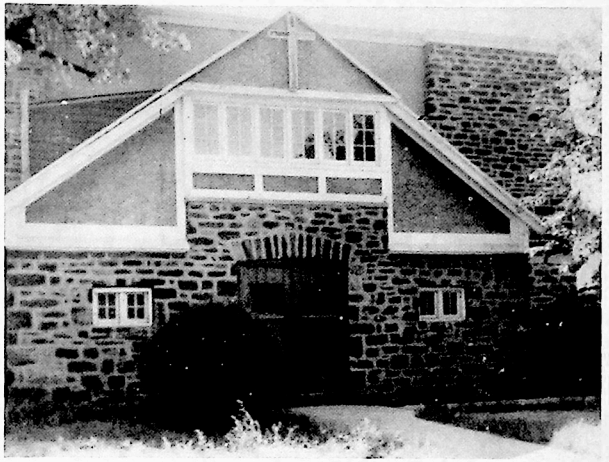
OF THE

Fortieth Anniversary

1912 - 1952

OF

St. Monica's Episcopal Church

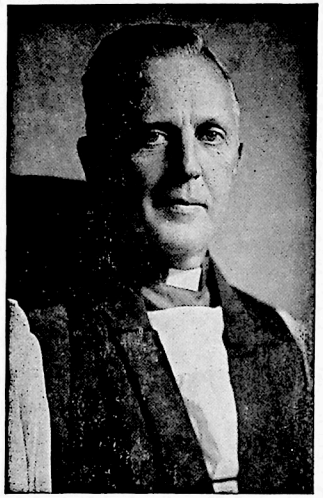


Woodland Avenue at St. Marks Street
Philadelphia 31, Pennsylvania

October 15, 16, 17, 19, 1952

The Rev. Matthew W. Davis, Th. B., Vicar
Mrs. Elizabeth Blair, Director of Music

The Bishop of the Diocese



September 30, 1952

Philadelphia 3, Penna.

To the Members of the Congregation of St. Monica's Church

Dear Friends:

I am looking forward to being with you at your anniversary celebration on the nineteenth. I pray that your work may continue to grow and expand in our Lord's service.

Sincerely your Bishop,

OLIVER J. HART

THE REV. MATTHEW W. DAVIS, Th.B., VICAR

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11:00 A. M. Choral Holy Eucharist and Sermon — 1st and 3rd Sundays
Choral Morning Prayer — Holy Baptism and Sermon, 2nd and 4th Sundays

12:30 P. M. Church School

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MR. WILLIAM WEBB, Clerk

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MR. CLEMON BRADLEY
MRS. FLORENCE MANLOVE
MR. MILTON BELL
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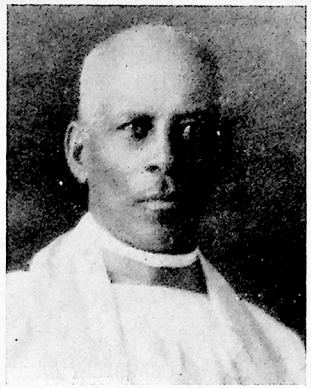
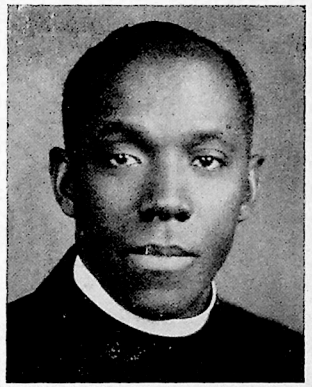


The Rev. Richard Bright, Vicar
1913 — 1937



The Rev. Arthur C. Moore, Vicar
1937 — 1945

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CUT STRING BEANS — CANDIED SWEET POTATOES

COLE SLAW

ICE CREAM — FANCY CAKES

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Program of Anniversary Services

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 8:00 P. M.

COMMUNITY NIGHT

GUEST SPEAKER — Miss Nellie Bright

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7:30 P. M.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET — Parish Hall

GUEST SPEAKER — The Rev. James M. Niblo, D.D., Rector of St. John's, Norristown, Pa.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 8:00 P. M.

SOLEMN EVENING PRAYER — SERMON

GUEST PREACHER — The Rev. Arthur C. Moore, Th.M. Former Vicar. Rector of St. Simon's Episcopal Church, New Rochelle, N. Y.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 11:00 A. M.

CHORAL HOLY EUCHARIST, HOLY CONFIRMATION, SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Oliver J. Hart, S.T.D. Confirmer and Preacher

BEST WISHES TO THE

Fortieth Anniversary

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OF

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History of St. Monica's

In September, 1912, a Sunday School was opened in a little eating house at 4826 Saybrook Avenue. The work was under the care of Mr. John M. Bush, a lay reader, and Mrs. F. S. Bullard, parish worker.

The trustees of the Philadelphia Divinity School, then located at Fiftieth Street and Woodland Avenue, gave the Sunday School the use of a large room, and in November, 1912 evening services were held in the Chapel of the seminary, and later a morning service was added.

On June 10, 1913, a house was rented at 1332 S. Markoe Street, especially for social work. It was opened June 26th with twenty-five adults and forty children, under the care of two lay workers. It soon became a center of many useful activities and the Sunday School was moved to this location.

The Rev. Richard Bright, formerly of Savannah, Georgia, took charge in July, 1913, and about one year later a piece of ground, 55 x 143 feet at Woodland Avenue and St. Marks Street, was purchased for the sum of $3,000.00.

Bishop Rhinelander laid the cornerstone of the present building on October 3, 1915; on December 12th the first service was held in the basement, and on March 20, 1917, worship was started in the present Chapel on the second floor.

Because of a shift in the Negro population, that seemed to indicate the section would become an industrial area, the mission moved, in November, 1928, into the old buildings of the Church of the Holy Comforter at Forty-eighth and Haverford Avenue. Here a splendid work was done until the disintegration of the property made it impossible to continue without spending a large sum of money for repairs. The mission moved back to its former and present location.

The Rev. Richard Bright resigned on May 30, 1937, after twenty-four years of faithful and diligent service.

On June 1, 1937, the Rev. Arthur C. Moore, Missionary in Charge of St. Cyprian's Mission was appointed to add St. Monica's to his responsibilities.

During his tenure the Church was repaired and painted both exterior and interior, in most cases the men of the Church provided both funds and the labor.

The members of the Mission also under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Moore, added to the fabric of the parish, a processional cross, a pair of candlesticks, a funeral pall, dishes, silver and other equipment, all the gift of members of the parish.

History of St. Monica's

The Mission further raised the sum of $400.00 to be used toward proposed alterations, namely that of constructing a chancel with a working sacristy on one side and the priest's on the other providing choir stalls and redecorating the chapel.

After nearly eight years of production and faithful service the Rev. Arthur C. Moore resigned January 1, 1945 to accept a call in the Diocese of New York.

On January 7, 1945, the present priest, the Rev. Matthew W. Davis, was appointed Vicar of St. Monica in conjunction with his work at The Chapel of the Ascension, West Chester, and with the assistance of several lay readers, Mr. Charles Dunmore, Mr. H. Terrell and Mr. Paul Washington the two works moved forward.

On March 20, 1946, about midnight a fire of undetermined origin partially destroyed the front end of the Church and the congregation was forced to vacate the building for eleven weeks. During this period we were fortunaate in being invited once again to use the facilities of the Philadelphia Divinity School, now located at 42nd and Spruce Streets.

We were able with the insurance money collected to repair the damage and to construct the Vestry room, kitchen, pantry and Lady Chapel.

Since the beginning of the ministry of the present Vicar, oil heat has been installed as well as a new electric organ, electric drinking fountain,New Dossal curtains with side riddles as well as having built a stone wall on the front and St. Marks Street side, which has a new cyclone fence with gates. The Parish hall walls have been lined with knotted pine and ply wood walls, making the hall more useful.

The following memorials have been added, a full frontal, brass flower vases, six single brass candlesticks for the main altar and a seven candle-labra and a pulpit. All the kneelers have been covered and some new ones added. In the Lady Chapel a pair of Eucharist candle sticks, an altar desk as well as a Dossal Curtain. The Lady Chapel has been redecorated this past summer and draw draperies installed at the windows

Two new church signs have been installed, one a changeable type, a memorial and the other the regulation Episcopal double faced, swinging type.

The following organizations, Woman's Auxiliary, The Rector's Aid Guild, Church School, Altar Guild, Servers Guild, Vestry and Men's Fellowship have been doing a splendid job.

Grateful acknowledgement is due those who have spent much time in the preparation of the details connected with our 40th anniversary celebration. Their names go unmentioned but it is known who they are.

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